# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

NANCY K. O'ROURKE,

Plaintiff,

v. Case No. 13-CV-193 RHS/ACT

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE, SUSAN PACHECO and NANCY BARCELO,

Defendants.

#### **ANSWER**

COME NOW the Defendants by and through their counsel of record Basham & Basham P.C. (Mark A. Basham) and answer Plaintiff's Civil Rights Complaint ("Complaint") as follows. Plaintiff is proceeding *pro se* and her Complaint is disjointed. Defendants' Answer will simply follow it as it is presented.

- 1. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
- 2. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 2 of the Complaint.
- 3. With respect to Paragraph 3 of the Complaint, the Defendants admit that Susan Pacheco is a citizen of New Mexico. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 3 of the Complaint.
  - B. NATURE OF THE CASE
- 1. Defendants admit the allegations contained in the first three sentences of the Paragraph on page 2 of the Complaint. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in that Paragraph on page 2 of the Complaint.

- 2. Defendants admit that Nancy Barcelo is a citizen of New Mexico and is employed a President of Northern New Mexico College. Defendants deny the remaining allegation contained in that Paragraph.
  - 3. Defendants deny the allegations contained on page 2C of the Complaint.

#### C. CAUSE OF ACTION

- 1. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
- 2. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph B)(1) of the Complaint.
- 3. Defendants deny the allegations contained in page 3A of the Complaint.
- 4. With respect to page 3B of the Complaint, the Defendants deny all the allegations except for the last sentence.

## D. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF

- Defendants are without sufficient information as to the allegations contained in pages
  3C, 3D and 4 of the Complaint and therefore deny them.
  - 2. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 2 on page 5 of the Complaint.

#### E. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- 1. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 1 on page 5 of the Complaint.
- 2. Any allegation not specifically admitted is hereby denied.

#### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

- 1. The Complaint fails to state a claim for upon which relief may be granted.
- 2. Plaintiff's Complaint is barred by sovereign immunity.
- 3. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants actions were reasonable, without malice, proper, legal and within the scope of their lawful duties.

- 4. Plaintiff has not suffered any detriment or damages as a result of the incidents alleged in the Complaint.
- 5. Any injury or damages allegedly suffered by the Plaintiff were due to and caused by Plaintiff's own acts and conduct.
- 6. Plaintiff has failed to allege and cannot prove an official policy or pattern which resulted in the alleged constitutional tort.
  - 7. Defendants are entitled to qualified immunity.
  - 8. Plaintiff's Complaint is barred by the statute of limitations.
- 9. Plaintiff's claims present no justiciable controversy, as the Plaintiff has suffered no damages.
- 10. Plaintiff's claims for damages for alleged constitutional rights violations are not actionable because damages are not available for the deprivation of constitutional rights <u>per se</u> but only for the injuries caused by such deprivations. Plaintiff has suffered no injury.
- 11. Defendants reserve the right to bring such additional affirmative defenses ass discovery may reveal.

**WHEREFORE**, Defendants pray that the Complaint be dismissed with prejudice and that they be awarded their costs and attorney's fees and such further relief as the Court may deem proper.

## Respectfully Submitted,

## /s/ Mark A. Basham

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Answer was mailed to Nancy O'Rourke, Pro Se, P.O. Box 22971, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502, on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

/s/ Mark A. Basham Mark A. Basham